News release

Met Office boost to local economy

8 November 2004

The Met Office has announced today that it has put almost £1 million worth of business in the South West in the first six months of the current financial year.

Devon is now the home of the Met Office and the purchase of local goods and services, crucial to the smooth running of the organisation, has benefited local businesses. In the first half of this financial year, 2004/5, a total of 127 individual purchase orders were placed with more than 60 different south-west companies at a total value of £933,000. This compares with around £600,000 worth of orders in the corresponding period 2003/4.

Of the successful companies, four attended the "Working with the Met Office" event in March 2004 and seven other companies who came to the event were invited to tender, but were unsuccessful. As the Met Office becomes even more involved with the local business community, it is expected that the tender success rate should increase.

This is great news for the south-west and helps keep jobs in the area. Roger Hunt, Chief Operating Officer at the Met Office said, "When the Met Office moved to Exeter, it didn't just bring its people and equipment, but also opportunities for local businesses to benefit. We're really pleased that by positively engaging with the community, the amount of business we're putting out into South West companies is rising rapidly."

Not only does it benefit local business, it's important to the Met Office as well. Purchasing locally has many advantages, such as a greater knowledge of local conditions and markets, lower transportation costs, quicker deliveries, and more appropriate and location-specific expertise.

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